



Eric Laurits

Instructional Leader

Manager of Mischief

0742 208 647

eric@ericlaurits.com

Nairobi, KE

EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor | 01.2021 - current

George Mason University | Fairfax, VA

- » Children's Literature for Teaching in Diverse Settings
- » Introduction to Education: Teaching, Learning, and Schools
- » Methods of Teaching Social Studies and Integrating Fine Arts in the Elementary Classroom
- » Professional Development School Advisory Group
- » 9 Essentials in Action Committee (NAPDS)

Primary Lead | 08.2022 - 07.2023

The Vale School Muthaiga | Nairobi, Kenya Fairfax, VA

- » Managed and designed instructional practices for entire primary school
- » Provided professional development in all academic content as well as teacher craft, self management, and culturally responsive education
- » Year 5 classroom teacher
- » Spearheaded multiple school-wide events (STEAM Festival, December Celebration of the Arts, End of Year Tea Time concerts)

Innovation Space Director/Resource | 08.2020 - 07.2021

Daniels Run Elementary School | Fairfax, VA

- » Designed and implemented K-6 STEAM/Innovation curriculum in collaboration with grade-level teams
- » Designed and implemented the PBL and Portrait of a Graduate goals for School Innovation and Improvement Plan
- » Served as lead Mentor for pre-service teachers and interns
- » Led PBL and experiential learning design training for all grades
- » Collected and analyzed school-wide data for PBL implementation and effectiveness to create scaffolded PBL work to meet distance and in-person needs

Elementary Teacher | 08.2018 - 07.2020

Daniels Run Elementary School | Fairfax, VA

FCPS Outstanding New Teacher award

- » Taught Fourth Grade Advanced Academics Program and Fifth Grade general education in diverse Title I setting
- » Served as technology and math team leads
- » Implemented personalized learning environments, fostered digital literacy and citizenship through student created podcasts, virtual museums, websites

Owner/Principal Photographer | 2004 - 2017

eric laurits photography, LLC

Founded nationally recognized photography studio specializing in documentary work and branding/identity portraiture for large corporate clients (Google, Greylock Partners, Chipotle, CorePower Yoga, etc.). Successfully ran small business, balancing multiple schedules, digital asset management, and troubleshooting with effective client-centered communication. Commissioned nationally and internationally for teaching, speaking, workshops, and seminars.

THREE WORD PHILOSOPHIES

Learning is social

Silly, honest, kind

Teaching is differentiation

Vital > Inclusive

Reflect, reflect, reflect

Notice, name, frame

Our community matters

Social-emotional first

So what's next?

Lead from within

Voice and choice

Eat more bread

EDUCATION

M.Ed., Curriculum and Instruction | 2017 - 2018

George Mason University | Fairfax, VA

Program Award Winner; PDS Emerging Leader Award (nominee);

Student Ambassador (nominated by peers and professors)

- » Aided in design of GMU's Elementary Education undergraduate program as part of PDS Advisory Group
- » Presented twice at NAPDS 2018 in Jacksonville, FL

M.F.A., Acting | 2004 - 2007

National Theatre Conservatory | Denver, CO

Nationally top-5 ranked MFA program. Conservatory intensive training for stage and screen performance as well as pedagogical instruction at the college level. Can teach low-flying trapeze and aerial work.

B.A., Music | 1998-2002

Colby College | Waterville, ME

Cum Laude

Recognized for outstanding leadership. Directed multiple student-run musical and volunteer groups. On/Off-Campus EMT. Active in residence life as an RA.



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Instructional Leader
PBL Ninja
Manager of Mischief


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📍 Nairobi, KE


REFERENCES

 Lois Groth, PhD
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 Audra Parker, PhD
George Mason Univ.
P: +1 (703) 993-9717
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available upon request

 Christopher Smith
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P: +1 (703) 577-9037
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 Erin Denton
Daniels Run Elementary
P: +1 (571) 379-6079
E: eldenton@fcps.edu

SCHOLARSHIP

Brown, E.L.; Groth, L.A., Parker, A; **Laurits, E.**; O'Brien, C.
(January, 2022) Pathways to Partnership: How a Differentiated
Approach Sustained PDS Efforts During Times of Uncertainty.
*School-University Partnerships Special Issue: Teaching in the Times
of Uncertainty.*

Groth, L.A., & **Laurits, E.** (February, 2021). Daniels Run and
Mason: Stronger together. Keynote Address presented at the
annual meeting of the National Association of Professional
Development Schools, Virtual Conference.

Groth, L.A., & **Laurits, E.** (February, 2021). Daniels Run and Mason
PDS. Presentation at the annual meeting of the National
Association of Professional Development Schools, Virtual
Conference.

Groth, L.A., **Laurits, E.**, Morrison, K., Gaskill, T., Beach, E., &
Rucker, I. (February, 2020). *Notice, name, frame, follow: A
framework for action research in a PDS.* Presentation at the annual
meeting of the National Association of Professional Development
Schools (Atlantic City, NJ).

Laurits, E., Rucker, I. (May, 2019) *Action Research in the Real
World: Notice, Name, frame, and follow.* Keynote presentation at
George Mason University's pre-service teacher action research
symposium, TIPS (Fairfax, VA)

**full list available upon request*

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

Community matters. Learning is social. Social-emotional first.
Teaching does not happen without differentiation. Inquiry
breeds engagement. Voice and Choice. Student agency. Be
silly, be honest, and be kind. Concept based curriculum.
Wholistic and experiential learning. Ask more questions.
Language matters.

PHILOSOPHY OF LEADING

Listen. Side with your team. Walk and talk. Earn the respect
you think you deserve. There is no I, there is us and we.
Leading does not happen without differentiation. Responsive,
reflective, and ready.

CERTIFICATIONS/ORGANIZATIONS

Virginia Society for Technology in Education; National
Association of Professional Development Schools;
Responsive Classroom; Advanced Academics (in progress)

RECENT AWARDS

2020 FCPS Outstanding New Teacher
2018 GMU Program Award
2018 NAPDS Emerging Leader (nominee)